

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Corbett, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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Conference Registration Remains Open:

Registration for the 2013 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will remain open until midnight November 4, 2013. Please visit www.jcjcjems.pa.us to register for this event. Join us this year for another informative conference.

Training Workshops Announced:

Fifteen different training workshops will be held on Thursday, November 7th. Many workshops specifically highlight various aspects of evidence-based probation practice and Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Morning workshops will be repeated during the afternoon session in an effort to allow participants to maximize exposure to the selected topics.

The workshops include:

- **Advancing Balanced and Restorative Justice Through The Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)**
Presenters: Susan Blackburn and Russell Carlino
- **Implementing Motivational Interviewing in Pennsylvania**
Presenters: Debra Kopenhaver and Nick Caramenico
- **Pennsylvania's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)**
Presenters: Rena Kreimer, David Mueller, Steven Masciantonio and Dana Shoenberg
- **Effective Case Planning Utilizing the Youth Level of Service (YLS) Assessment**
Presenters: Elizabeth Fritz and Fabiola Gerhard
- **Pennsylvania's Recidivism Project: Implications and Next Steps**
Presenter: Justine Fowler
- **The Pennsylvania Academic and Career Technical Training (PACTT) Initiative**
Presenters: David Dickson and Susan Will
- **Juvenile Justice Evidence-Based Practices 101**
Presenter: Richard Steele

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Reminders:

- **[Tie One on for Safety](#)**
- **[Adoption Awareness Month](#)**

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD A FULL BROCHURE OF EVENTS](#)

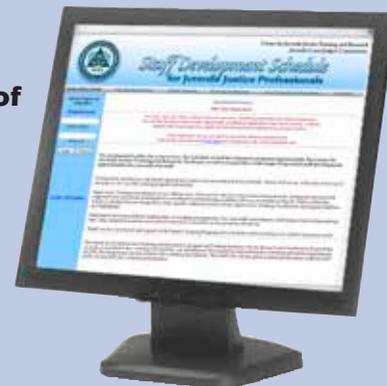
Training Workshops Announced: *(continued)*

- **How Health Care Reform Can Help Children & Families In The Juvenile Justice System**
Presenter: Ann Bacharach
- **Enhancing our Response to Crime Victims**
Presenters: Valerie Bender and Teresa Wilcox
- **Implementing the Four Core Competencies: Professional Alliance; Skill Practice; Case Planning; and Rewards and Sanctions**
Presenters: Nicole Mattern and Leo Lutz
- **Developing a Graduated Response Model and Disposition Matrix**
Presenters: Barbara Dancy and Laurie Hague
- **Aggression Replacement Training: A Cognitive Behavioral Intervention**
Presenter: Mark Amendola
- **The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP): Evaluating the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Interventions**
Presenters: Meghan Blevins, Lisa Freese and Jeff Gregro
- **Keys to Effective Diversion Policies, Practices and Programs**
Presenters: Jack Carroll, Don Corry, Renee Merion, Linnette Paris, Justin Pittman and Sam Miller
- **Strategies to Support and Engage Families**
Presenters: Mark Benedetto, Wendy Luckenbill and Kelly Waltman-Spreha

Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:

The JCJC/CJJT&R Staff Development schedule is being updated regularly with more workshops. Please be sure that you check the listing frequently.

- **Motivational Interviewing: Skills Every Juvenile Probation Officer Should Know**
Days Inn State College, State College
Barbara Ulmer - 11/13-14/2013
- **Facilitator Training for the Victim/Community Awareness: An Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juveniles**
Days Inn State College, State College
Susan Blackburn, Stephanie Black,
Rufus Tolbert, and Lai-Onda Welcome - 11/13-14/2013
- **Criminal Minds, Criminal Behavior**
Days Inn State College, State College
Dr. Paul Martin, D.O. - 12/5-6/2013



Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

Hosting a training you would like to see listed here? E-mail us the details and we'll list it in our next issue.

Carol Lavery Moving Onward to New Challenges



Ms. Carol L. Lavery

Ms. Carol L. Lavery, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate, is winding down her successful seven year career in this role.

Ms. Lavery was appointed to the position in February 2006 by Governor Rendell and was reappointed to a 6 year term in 2007. In this position she was responsible for representing the rights

and interests of crime victims before the Board of Probation and Parole and the Department of Corrections, as well as overseeing the state's Address Confidentiality Program.

As the Commonwealth's Victim Advocate, she has served on numerous governmental committees representing victims of crime. She has also provided policy advice to both the legislature and Governor's Office concerning victim issues. As a friend to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system throughout her tenure, her attention and commitment to victims of juvenile offenders has resulted in the advancement of the rights and services afforded to crime victims in the juvenile justice system.

Ms. Lavery served on the Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers since its inception, helping to define and implement Balanced and Restorative Justice with special attention to victim restoration as a key guiding statement of the juvenile justice mission. Her contributions to the work of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of the PCCD provided invaluable and ongoing knowledge and expertise regarding issues facing victims.

Ms. Lavery was instrumental in promoting legislative amendments to the Crime Victims Act, furthering the

role of the Office of the Victim Advocate to represent and advocate for the interests of crime victims, generally, including the victims of juvenile crime.

Ms. Lavery took a prominent role following the scandal involving judges in Luzerne County. She worked tirelessly advocating for rights and services for the original crime victims in the 6,000 cases that were eventually expunged, while also advocating for juvenile offenders whose rights were violated.

Most recently, Ms. Lavery chaired the Restitution in Pennsylvania Task Force, which was responsible for making 47 recommendations to the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

Prior to her appointment to the Victim Advocate position, Ms. Lavery served for ten years as the Director of the Office of Victims' Services for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, where she was responsible for victim service related policy, and the administration of over \$ 30 million dollars annually in federal and state grant funds to victim services, district attorneys and juvenile probation offices.

Included in her current and past advocacy work are serving as:

- President of the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA);
- Board member of National Association of Victim Assistance Administrators;
- Regional Representative to the National Criminal Justice Association Advisory Council;
- An active member in the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards;
- Former board president and one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, and;
- Former board officer and one of the founders of the Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victim Organizations.

She also served for 17 years as the Executive Director of the Victims Resource Center of Luzerne/Wyoming Counties (Pa.). Ms. Lavery holds a Masters in Public Administration from Marywood University (Pa.) and a B.A. from Wilkes University (Pa.).

“Celebrating Partners in Juvenile Justice”

By: Theresa Kline, Luzerne County Department of Probation Services, Juvenile Division

The Luzerne County Department of Probation Services-Juvenile Division recently celebrated the 2013 Juvenile Justice Week with a full slate of activities. This week was established to enhance public understanding of our juvenile justice system and pay tribute to those who are part of this important effort. This Commonwealth-wide celebration, which occurs the first week in October, is an opportunity to raise public awareness and educate the community regarding the juvenile justice system practices, procedures and prevention methods. Locally, the celebration recognizes the quality work being done by juvenile justice professionals, as well as acknowledges the outstanding agencies and service providers committed to serving the youth and families of Luzerne County by following the principles of balanced and restorative justice. The on-going partnerships focus on promoting safer communities, providing victim restoration and encouraging competency development in the juveniles served.

The department hosted an Open House/Resource Day: *“Celebrating Partners in Juvenile Justice”* which took place in two parts: **Tuesday, October 8, 2013 and Wednesday, October 9, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Fourteen agencies were represented over the two-day event held at the Penn Place Building located on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Market Street in Wilkes Barre. The goal was to provide the agencies with the opportunity to raise community awareness, provide program specific resource information and highlight the programs that tirelessly serve the juveniles and families of our community. The agencies in attendance were: **Northeast Counseling Services, Catholic Social Services, Family Service Association, King’s College Mentoring Program, Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc., A Better Today, White Deer Run, VisionQuest, Victims’ Resource Center, Luzerne-Wyoming Drug and Alcohol, NAMI-Wilkes Barre, Luzerne County Children & Youth Services, Luzerne County District Attorney’s Office, and Luzerne County Office of the Public Defender.** Luzerne County Juvenile Probation appreciates the collaboration and cooperation of these community agencies.

The Juvenile Justice Week celebration continued on Thursday, October 10, 2013 with a staff training/luncheon followed by the 8th Annual JPO-sponsored Golf Outing. Two presenters provided training to approximately 30 probation services staff:

Maura Modrovsky, Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), discussed the broad array of programs operated by the agency. CEO exemplifies its “People Helping People” mission by mobilizing resources to fight the causes and effects of poverty and promoting self-sufficiency among low-income and vulnerable populations.

Robert Curry, Hazleton Integration Project, introduced his agency’s community-based effort which seeks to unite the people of many different cultures who call Hazleton home. The project’s main focus is developing a community center geared toward economically disadvantaged youth and adults. The facility known as the Hazleton One Community Center will host many educational, athletic and cultural activities at little or no cost to participants while fostering trust and respect among all of the region’s ethnic cultures.

Thirty-four golfers endured inclement weather conditions and participated in the afternoon golf outing. Represented were JPO staff, APO staff, local police, agency affiliates and community participants.

October’s Juvenile Justice Week landscape carried into the following week with two additional notable events. On October 18, 2013 the Juvenile Probation Office hosted Mark Carey for a presentation to local stakeholders on Evidenced-Based Practices. Twenty-seven people attended, representing 15 agencies/departments to hear Mark’s message and how it applies to Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). The local stakeholders provided very positive feedback and pledged support to the on-going development and implementation of JJSES initiatives.

The 2nd Annual Youth Aid Panel Volunteer Recognition Breakfast was hosted by Stefanie Salavantis, Luzerne County District Attorney. This event honored the 75+ volunteers who have dedicated their service to over 275 juveniles who have been referred to the program. The Juvenile Probation Office continues to provide support and guidance to this very significant diversionary program.

“Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Building Blocks for a Better System”

JJSES STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To work in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by: employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process; collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge, striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.

Part 22 of a series: *“JJSES Building Blocks”*

Policy Alignment

Doing evidence-based practices (EBP) also means doing evidence-based policy. Practice flows from policy and uninformed policy can easily result in ineffective or even harmful consequences. This is especially true when it comes to efforts to implement EBP in juvenile justice on the state and local level. Decisions taken by elected officials in response to high-profile events and crimes can quickly lead to legislation that effectively precludes the application of research in terms of the adjudication, sentencing, detention and supervision of juveniles in the community and that costs taxpayers vast amounts of money with little enhancement of public safety.

While from a normative and prescriptive perspective EBP demands a rational decision-making approach to the policy process, it is more likely that most juvenile justice agencies, and the appointed and elected officials who oversee them, engage in what some scholars call “muddling through.” These scholars argue that many, if not most, policy decisions are not made in light of pre-determined goals based on a careful analysis of the situation and relevant research, but are a piecemeal endeavor with problems addressed a bit at a time. In this context research is less a “rational arbiter between alternative courses of action” and more a way of exercising political control where knowledge becomes an expedient tool to convince others of one’s own strongly held ideological position.¹

The problem with just “muddling through” and letting ideology, expediency and personal and political preferences overwhelm scientific evidence in driving policy is that it may just be a death-sentence for doing EBP in juvenile justice. This contention may be especially true

of the two key “gatekeepers” for dealing with criminally involved youth: judges and prosecutors. Many scholars have noted that the courts “appear to be the least informed about the results of effectiveness research.”² As for prosecutors, there is equally little evidence that the majority of them have moved beyond the traditional “avenging angel” stance so useful for winning over the public during an election. The results of these situations can be the unnecessary detention of juveniles better served in the community, the inclusion of conditions of probation in court orders that preclude officers from focusing on the “criminogenic” needs of the youth, and a willingness to transfer juveniles to adult court jurisdiction as a means of appearing “tough on crime.”

In juvenile justice in the United States, Canada and Great Britain there is a growing consensus among researchers and practitioners alike about “what works” in terms of dealing with juvenile delinquency. While this body of knowledge must always be tested and retested, revised and expanded, and even questioned and rejected, there is little doubt that it forms a much sounder basis for doing juvenile justice than just ideology, politics and personal preference. In the same vein research must also form the basis for the policy, both formal and informal, that constitutes the legal and institutional structures within which trained professionals seek to supervise and hold accountable in the community juveniles who have fallen afoul of the law. Without such a research-based alignment of policy and practice, efforts to realize the public safety benefits promised through the application of evidence-based practices can quickly become an effort in futility.

Policy alignment must occur on several levels:

- Within individual juvenile justice agencies. In order for juvenile supervision and family intervention to be effective, all organizational units and levels of staff in the agency, from the Chief to support personnel, must understand and agree with the agency's policy goals developed through the use of research. They must be willing to accept evidence-based principles which dictate that professionals and practitioners have a moral obligation to do good and avoid harm when it comes to preventing and alleviating juvenile delinquency;
- Within the immediate environment of the juvenile justice agency. Juvenile departments work within a network of public, private and not-for-profit service providers. Each of these providers must be educated in research-based practices with respect to changing delinquent juvenile behavior and be willing to accommodate their policies to enhance the capacity of everyone, working in collaboration, to achieve this important public safety goal;
- Within the local juvenile justice system. As previously mentioned, all juvenile justice practitioners,

such as judges, prosecutors, the defense bar, victims' advocates and elected officials, must be provided the opportunity to learn about EBP and the research-driven policies that must be in place for it to succeed. Often known as Smarter Sentencing, this body of knowledge brings to the fore the evidence surrounding the effective use of criminal justice sanctions—such as punishment, incapacitation, deterrence, treatment and restoration—and how the use or misuse of such sanctions can enable or prevent the application of EBP to community corrections practices; and

- Within the local and statewide political environment. Local and state elected officials are the ultimate legal decision-makers in their jurisdictions. While many variables must be taken into consideration when making their decisions, all too often the emotional impact of spectacular delinquent events, driven by media hysteria, seems to be the dispositive factor in establishing juvenile justice legislation both in counties and in the state. Through education and other methods, legislators need to be exposed to what research says about effectively preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency.

¹ M. Bulmer, *Social Science and Policy*, London: Allen and Unwin, 1986, 12

² Sandra M. Nutley and Huw T.O. Davies, "The Fall and Rise of Evidence in Criminal Justice," 19(1), *Public Money & Management* 51 (January-March 1999).

Crime Victims' Rights Rally

30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice

April 7, 2014

Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 6-12, 2014.



SAVE THE DATE

Pennsylvania
Family Group Decision Making Conference

April 22-23, 2014

Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA

Sponsored by:

FGM State Leadership Team
Pennsylvania State Roundtable
Office of Children & Families in the Courts



Juvenile Court Judges Commission
Office of Children, Youth and Families
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

Tribute Book to Dennis Maloney Released

The Legacy of Community Justice edited by: Sandra Pavelka, Anne Seymour & Barry Stuart (2013) has been recently released.

The Legacy of Community Justice is in memory of the late, great Dennis "Denny" Maloney, and was a "labor of love" for all its editors and contributors. Dennis was a renowned community restorative justice advocate from Deschutes County, OR, who helped shape U.S. justice reforms. This book includes a number of readings relating to the discipline of community restorative justice.

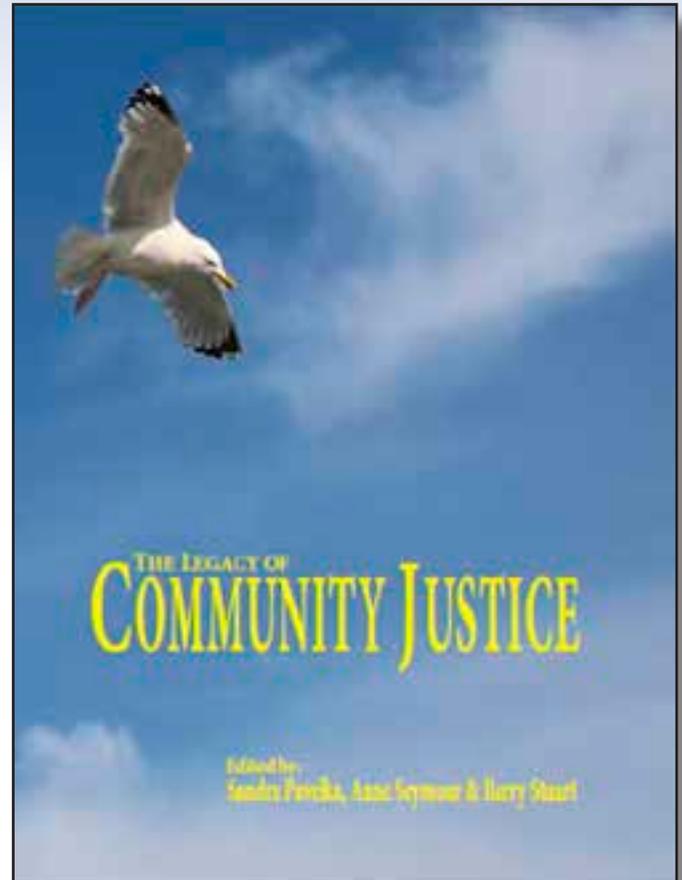
Chapter 6 of the Legacy begins with a tribute to Dennis by Jim Anderson, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and is followed by an article entitled, "Pennsylvania's Progress in Balanced and Restorative Justice", written by Sandra Pavelka and Doug Thomas with input from Jim Anderson, Susan Blackburn and Valerie Bender.

Throughout all eleven chapters, the reader is introduced to current justice reforms, the thinking which underlies some of those reforms, and is given insight on Dennis Maloney, the charismatic and tenacious impetus behind many of these reforms. "This book offers a rare range of writings from practical policy briefs to personal stories and wild images of what might be possible if we thought about justice differently" states Dr. Diane Crocker, PhD from St. Mary's University.

The Legacy of Community Justice was published by Sandra Pavelka, PhD, Anne Seymour, Barry Stuart (eds.) J Charlton Publishing Ltd, Vernon, BC Canada. ISBN: 9780981151885.

A donation of \$5.00 from every book sale will be donated to The Maloney Children's Scholarship Fund.

You can obtain more information about this book and order it at <http://jcharltonpublishing.com/>.



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National Juvenile Justice Announcements

The following announcements are reprinted from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service:

OJJDP Administrator Discusses Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts in NPR Interview

In a [recent interview](#) with National Public Radio (NPR), Robert L. Listenbee, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, discussed priorities for the Office, which include supporting research and programs that promote the safety and wellbeing of the nation's youth. He spoke about the importance of adopting a trauma-informed approach for treating children exposed to violence and a developmental approach to juvenile justice. He also discussed federal efforts to staunch the "school-to-prison pipeline."

"We believe firmly that children should be kept in school and out of courts," Listenbee said. "We don't think that kids who are truant, kids who are runaways, kids who engage in various sorts of violations of the code of conduct that aren't criminal offenses—we don't think they belong in the juvenile justice system."

Resources:

[Read](#) the full article on NPR.

[Download](#) the "Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence."

Download "[Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach](#)"

OJJDP Announces Funding To Support National Girls Institute

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has [awarded](#) \$400,000 to the [American Institutes for Research](#) and the [National Crittenton Foundation](#) to support the [National Girls Institute](#) (NGI). NGI works to reduce the number of girls in the juvenile justice system and improve the treatment of girls in detention by developing standards of care, providing access to resources, and providing training and technical assistance to professionals working with at-risk and delinquent girls and their families. Announcing the award, OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee reiterated the Office's commitment to advancing the understanding of girls' issues and improving program and system responses to girls in the juvenile justice system.



Resources:

[Learn more](#) about OJJDP's research and programs related to girls in the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP Bulletin Examines Intersection Between Delinquency and Victimization

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has released "[Children's Exposure to Violence and the Intersection Between Delinquency and Victimization](#)." This is the fifth publication in OJJDP's series on the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), which gathered data on the incidence and prevalence of children's exposure to violence across all ages, settings, and timeframes. This bulletin presents findings about the association between delinquency and victimization among children and youth ages 10–17 in the study. The study findings have implications for practitioners in the adolescent development and intervention fields.



Resources:

[View and download](#) this OJJDP bulletin.

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University. Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by e-mail.

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